

(b) if so, whether the Government has also released Rs. 7 crore out of Rs. 14.70 crore for taking up construction of buildings to house the police stations;

(c) whether the State Government of A.P. has been asked to utilise the funds for modernisation of the police force and construction of the buildings to house the police stations;

(d) if so, the extent to which the State Government utilised the funds; and

(e) whether any concrete schemes in this regard have been received from the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme 'Modernisation of State Police Forces', funds are not available for the construction of police station/outpost buildings. However, the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 204.00 lakhs for the State of Andhra Pradesh for the construction of buildings of police stations/outposts. A sum of Rs. 30.60 lakhs was released in favour of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard during the year 1996-97.

(c) to (e) The funds released are meant to be utilised for the specified purpose. The State Governments receiving the funds are required to furnish utilisation certificates in due course. Such certificates are awaited from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the instant cases.

Periodical Review on Social Legislation

5938. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crimes against women are on the increase in spite of several measures taken in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the National Commission for Women, had suggested periodical review of this social legislation to assess their implementation of bringing about necessary reforms to meet the challenges of the times;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are considering to formulate rules in such a manner so as to see that the rape cases come up before the women judges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) According to information available, the incidents of

crime against women during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 numbered 98948, 105413 and 105459 (provisional) respectively. 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to check crime. The State Governments need to do more to sensitise their police forces, create awareness among the public and take such socio-economic measures as are necessary to check crimes against women. The Central Government has been addressing the State Governments in this regard from time to time.

(c) and (d) The Department of Women & Child in the Government of India, in consultation with the National Commission for Women and others, keeps reviewing the relevant laws to identify deficiencies therein and bring forward necessary amendments or new legislations. Apart from a number of amendments under consideration, section 304-B has been added to the I.P.C. to deal with dowry deaths and section 113B has been inserted in the Indian Evidence Act enabling courts to presume the guilt of husband/relative in connection with dowry death.

(e) and (f) The administration of justice in the District/Subordinate Courts comes under the purview of the State Governments/High Courts. It is for the concerned State Governments/High Courts to set up such courts according to their requirements.

Open Sale of Foodgrains

5939. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains are sold to the private traders just above the economic cost;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government considered the sale of wheat and rice directly to consumers in small packets of 5 or 10 Kg. under the open market scheme, eliminating middleman and hoarders; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Sale of wheat and rice under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) has been stopped with effect from 1.4.97. Upto 31.3.97 foodgrains were sold at different places at different rates, which were determined after taking into account various factors like freight ex-North, market rate of wheat, wholesale rates of wheat at major centres in UP, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi and the levy price of rice etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of extra packaging and handling cost involved and, also, the nature and volume of FCI's operations, it may not be practicable to sell wheat and rice in small bags of 5 or 10 Kg. directly to the consumers. Moreover, the Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1.4.97.

Supply under PDS to Andhra Pradesh

5940. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Union Government to enhance the quota of rice, wheat and other items being supplied under Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for enhancement of quota of the following PDS commodities :

Wheat - Increase from 15000 MT., to 18000 MT. per month from April, 1997.

Kerosene - Requested for making additional allocation.

Edible Oil - Requested for allocation of 93,200 MT of imported edible oil for 1997-98, against lifting of 44,495 MT. during 1996-97 out of allocation of 49,000 MT.

(c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the allocation of foodgrains has been fixed for Below Poverty Line population (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) population in accordance with the TPDS guidelines and in the ratio as suggested by the State Government as under :

(000 MT/per Month)					
Rice			Wheat		
BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
32.65	152.05	184.70	Nil	15.00	15.00

Kerosene : The allocation to the State of Andhra Pradesh for the year 1997-98 has been increased by 22646 MTs over the last year representing an increase of 3.6% against the national average of 2.9%

Edible Oil : Government's Edible Oil Import Programme for 1997-98 has not yet been finalised.

[Translation]

Vacuum Pan For Khandsari Units

5941. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugar mill owners from various States have been protesting against providing 'Vacuum Pan' to the Khandsari units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) Under the existing law and rules/orders thereunder "producers of Khandsari sugar" are required to manufacture only by the open pan process, whereas manufacture of sugar by vacuum pan process is allowed only to the "producers of sugar". Producers of khandsari sugar do not have such obligations imposed upon them as are placed on the producers of sugar. For instance, khandsari units are not required to give any part of their produce by way of levy and they are also not required to purchase sugarcane at a stipulated price. They are also not subject to any cess. There is no central excise either. The producers of sugar i.e. those manufacturing sugar by the vacuum pan process are therefore of the view that unless all distinctions between the khandsari and sugar manufacturing units are removed, the ban on the use of vacuum pan process by the Khandsari units should not be lifted. Keeping in view the differences between the khandsari and the sugar manufacturing units, no change in the present situation is contemplated.

[English]

Infrastructure for Gujarat Milk Scheme

5942. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-availability of infrastructure several schemes of Gujarat Milk Scheme and National Dairy Corporation are pending;

(b) if so, the steps the Government have taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up large national Dairy in Ahmedabad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?